

do so will require substantial leadership and cultural change within the FAA. However, it is meant to serve notice upon FAA that we will not continue to tolerate the lax environment that has been allowed to develop over the last few years. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass this important legislation.

HONORING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Special Olympics, an outstanding organization which provides 2.5 million children and adults with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to participate in year-round, Olympic-style, athletic competitions.

July 20, 2008, will mark the Special Olympics' 40th anniversary. Thanks to hard work from thousands of dedicated volunteers, families and athletes, the Special Olympics has grown from its humble beginnings in Eunice Kennedy Shriver's Maryland home to over 200 programs located throughout 180 countries. The Special Olympics provides its athletes with 30 Olympic-style games—varying from alpine skiing to bocce—and includes children as young as 8.

In my home State of New York, the Special Olympics has a great tradition as one of the leading charitable organizations for the intellectually disabled. For this, the New York Special Olympics plays an irreplaceable role in the National Special Olympics Program. Today, New York is home to an astounding 43,000 athletes who participate in over 400 Olympic-style competitions.

The benefits of the Special Olympics go far beyond gold medals. The skills and relationships built during the athletes' participation give them the courage, self-confidence and ability to excel on and off the field. Not only does the Special Olympics serve the athletes, but also families, volunteers and communities who gain respect, tolerance, and understanding for persons with disabilities.

I would like to thank the millions of volunteers, the organization of the Special Olympics and, most importantly, the athletes, for providing the world with an invaluable service.

IN HONOR OF SEAN D. TUCKER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sean D. Tucker, an aerobatic pilot from Salinas, California, who this month joins the Wright Brothers, Neil Armstrong, and Charles Lindbergh in the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio.

Tucker started out as a crop duster in the Salinas Valley before transitioning into air show routines, where—despite an early fear of flying—he has over 1,000 performances at more than 400 airshows under his belt. Performing his stunts in his Oracle, a one-seat bi-

plane designed for him by his team, he is regarded as one of the world's top civilian aerobatic pilots, as well as a highly respected ambassador for the sport. In the 20,000 hours of flight time he has logged, Sean has created maneuvers with his plane that have never been replicated by another aerobatic pilot. His innovation and technique have led to numerous titles, including the Championship Air Show Pilots Association Challenge 4 years in a row. Even with his accomplishments, though, his election to the Hall of Fame still took him completely by surprise. Said Tucker, "I was so stunned I didn't even tell anybody. I'm just this guy who likes flying upside down."

In addition to performing in front of millions of fans, Tucker founded the Tutima Academy of Aviation Safety, an institution committed to improving the standards of aviation safety in aerobatics as well as aviation in general by teaching seasoned and aspiring pilots the tricks behind completely controlling an aircraft. For his dedication to safety and unique flying style, Tucker has received all of the airshow industry's highest honors, including the privilege of being named one of the Living Legends in Aviation. He is also the only civilian performer ever to be allowed to fly in close formation with the Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds.

Sean wants to continue his craft and be a role model to the community and aviation industry for as long as his body and plane allow; the day after the ceremony he will perform at the Dayton Airshow. Said executive director of the Hall of Fame Ron Kaplan, "He's a real asset to the aviation community. Overall, he's just a fantastic role model and ambassador for aviation, having performed for years and years for millions of people." One of those he has inspired is his son, Eric, who works alongside him on Team Oracle.

Sean, who was selected out of 200 nominees, will be introduced by his close friend, Joe Kittinger, a Vietnam prisoner of war who set a world record for parachuting in 1960.

Madam Speaker, Sean Tucker is being honored by the aviation industry for an esteemed career and unwavering passion to test the boundaries of aerobatics. I wish to join the aviation community and the city of Salinas in honoring his dedication and accomplishments and wish him continued prosperity and safety in the future.

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE ACTIONS OF CHINESE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BROUGHT RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF THE SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution that recognizes the actions of Chinese individuals and non-governmental organizations that have brought relief to victims of the Sichuan earthquake. The resolution also recognizes and encourages a potential new era of openness by the Chinese Government.

Following the tragic earthquake in Sichuan Province on May 20, we have heard and read accounts describing the generous response of

thousands of individuals and hundreds of NGOs who have raised money, delivered food and tents, and provided direct hands-on assistance to the survivors. Foreign journalists and China's new generation of media have been granted unprecedented access into the earthquake stricken areas and reported on the quake with an intensity and professionalism once thought impossible.

Contrast what has happened in China today with what happened following the Great Tangshan earthquake of 1976. The Chinese Government blocked foreign access and even tried to hide from its own citizens the tragedy that took the loss of more than 250,000 lives.

There are many human rights concerns in China I share with my colleagues. Notwithstanding these concerns, we need to recognize and encourage actions that bring about positive change and plant the seeds of a better civil society. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES UNITE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a July 8, 2008 New York Carib News editorial entitled: "The Path to Success in Education: University of the West Indies and Medgar Evers College Join Hands." The partnership came about as a result of the CARICOM Conference in New York that brought together Caribbean heads of government as well as the titans of the New York City financial community.

Medgar Evers and UWI have existing ties because of the similarity of the populations they serve. "UWI is a regional university serving the English-speaking Caribbean population and MEC is the college most closely associated with the Caribbean-American community within the CUNY system and the New York City metropolitan area." The strong connection between the two universities will be mutually beneficial and it will give UWI, the most prestigious institution of higher learning in the Caribbean, tangible ties to an American university that can give greater opportunities for exchange in both university communities.

TRIBUTE TO ROCHESTER LADY ROCKETS SOCCER TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Rochester Lady Rockets soccer team on their success in winning the championship game of the Illinois High School Association Class A State tournament.

Kelly Werthwien, Kelcie Kolis, Sarah Wright, Grace Capranica, Marissa Burge, Beth Fitzsimmons, Kellse Sandercock, Amy Shackelford, Jessica Heaton, Jillian Sulcer, Mollie Edgecomb, Kassie McIntyre, Taylor Heissinger, Kelcee Walsh, Amy Cassidy,

Maryssa Bandy, Taylor McDermott, Alecia Mantei, Taryn Butler, Aubrey Heck, Caley Cook and Casey Turner, along with head coach Chad Kutscher, Assistant Coaches Scott Tucker, Andrew Ford and Kristi Coppennoll and Trainer Sara Powless, put together a 16–4–3 season and swept through the sectional tournament en route to their first State championship.

This is the third straight year in which the Lady Rockets reached the State tournament, and the first for Coach Kutscher.

I am very pleased to congratulate the Rochester Lady Rockets on their victory and wish them the best of luck for next season.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend, a constituent, and a distinguished journalist. On June 30, 2008 Barbara Stambaugh Williams retired as editor of the Charleston Post and Courier. Although she will continue to provide weekly columns and serve as editor emeritus, her daily leadership of the paper will be sorely missed.

I first met Barbara when I lived in Charleston, South Carolina in the 1960s and '70s. At that time, I was a young political activist who ran for the State House of Representatives in 1970. Barbara was at that time a reporter for the Charleston News & Courier. In addition, she became the first woman assigned to cover the State Legislature. It was in that role that we first became personally acquainted. It was because of her coverage of that campaign that I came to the favorable attention of John West, who was the winning candidate for governor. In my race for the House, I went to bed election night having been declared a 500-vote winner, but awoke to find that I was a 500-vote loser. When Barbara asked me what happened, I simply responded "I didn't get enough votes." Her reporting of that story precipitated a call to me from Governor-elect West, and he invited me to become the first African American advisor to a sitting South Carolina governor. The rest is history.

Barbara and I continued to cross paths even after I moved to Columbia to join the Governor's administration. I also watched her career with great interest. In 1976, she rose to the position of assistant managing editor of the News & Courier, which was Charleston's morning paper. In 1981, the afternoon paper, The Evening Post, named Barbara its editor. This was historic as she became the first woman in modern times to serve as editor of a major daily newspaper in South Carolina. In 1990, she continued her trailblazing ascent and returned to the News & Courier as its editor.

As was a common trend around the country, the morning and afternoon papers later merged, and in 1991, Barbara became the first editor of the Charleston Post & Courier. Her extraordinary career in journalism spans 47 years, 44 of those with Charleston newspapers.

She is a member of several professional organizations, and in 1992, Barbara served as president of the National Conference of Edi-

torial Writers, which includes newspapers in the United States and Canada. Her numerous awards include the 1962 King Award given to the outstanding newspaperwoman in South Carolina and the 1973 Byliner Award from the Central S.C. Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

The city of Charleston and the State of South Carolina owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to her for providing decades of insight into the workings of our government and fair-minded opinions of public affairs at the local, state, national and global level. Although her skilled hand will no longer be guiding the Post & Courier on a daily basis, her influence on the newspaper will be felt for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Barbara Williams on an extraordinary career. This trailblazing journalist has made a lasting impact on her profession and her community. I thank Barbara for her important contributions, and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the New Markets Tax Credit, a vital community development financing tool which is set to expire at the end of this year unless Congress takes action to extend it.

The New Markets Tax Credit was signed into law in 2000 with the goal of using a modest Federal tax credit as an incentive to attract private investment capital to viable urban and rural markets that private investors often overlook—and I am happy to report that the credit has done just that.

As of July 1, 2008, the Treasury Department reported that the credit was responsible for \$11 billion in new investment in economically distressed communities across the country.

As a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Ranking Member of the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee, I am interested in seeing how Federal tax credits influence investor behavior. I was particularly interested in GAO's findings on the NMTC in 2007 that found 88 percent of NMTC investors surveyed would not have made the investment in the low income community if not for the credit. The report further found that 69 percent of the investors surveyed indicated they had not invested in low income community projects prior to working with NMTC.

These GAO findings are very powerful in my view because they indicate that the \$11 billion in low income community investments reported by the Treasury Department would not have occurred were it not for the New Markets Tax Credit.

As I mentioned, the credit was created with a clearly articulated goal: To generate private investment in low income communities by financing business and economic development activity. I am pleased to see that in a relatively short period of time a vibrant New Markets Tax Credit industry including community development organizations and investors has

emerged to embrace this goal. In my home State of Pennsylvania, community development organizations have been awarded more than \$413 million in NMTC allocations that have been used to finance a range of businesses and economic development projects in some of the State's most economically distressed areas in both urban and rural parts of the State.

For example, in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the New Markets Tax Credit was instrumental in preserving the historic Nabisco Bakery building. The Commonwealth Cornerstone Group, a nonprofit created by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency that received a \$60 million allocation of credits in 2006 to use throughout the State, used a portion of its allocation to revitalize the Nabisco Bakery building into a mixed use development to house neighborhood retail businesses as well as a 110-room hotel. The project, once complete, will create approximately 1,200 jobs for neighborhood residents.

While I am pleased to point to the Nabisco Bakery project as a prime example of how the credit is being used to revitalize our distressed urban centers, more than 40 percent of my constituents live in rural areas. For this reason, I am pleased to see that the Treasury Department established rules to ensure that rural communities secure a proportional share of the investments generated with the credit. As we know, it is often the isolated rural communities and businesses that face the most significant barriers in terms of attracting outside private capital and the credit would be a powerful tool in bringing private equity capital to rural markets.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting an extension of the New Markets Tax Credit which is currently set to expire at the end of this year. Our cities and rural towns stand to benefit greatly from this program and it should be extended.

RECOGNIZING LIFE OF C.H. "BOOTS" DUESING

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of C.H. "Boots" Duesing who passed on July 6, 2008.

Boots was an entrepreneur whose commitment to his community led to the founding of Graduate Service, Inc. Many high school students in Southwestern Ohio know Graduate Service because it supplies class rings, caps and gowns, and commencement announcements to graduating high school students.

Prior to his business endeavors, Boots graduated from DePauw University and showed his passion for his country by serving in the U.S. Navy Air Corps for a year.

Ohio's Second Congressional District shared Boots and his wife Doris with the citizens of Palisades Park, Michigan, where they spent their summers. Boots established a youth tennis program there which continues to thrive to this day.

Although Boots was active in the community and worked to enrich the lives of those living in the communities he called home, he was most devoted to his family. I am certain that